SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS
10¢ ALL NEW STORIES NOV.-DEC. NO. 36

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BIG TOWN

MAZDA LANE

NEW STORIES of TV's HIT SHOW!

STEVE, LOOK AT ALL THE MONEY THAT *MASKED MAN* IS THROWING AWAY!

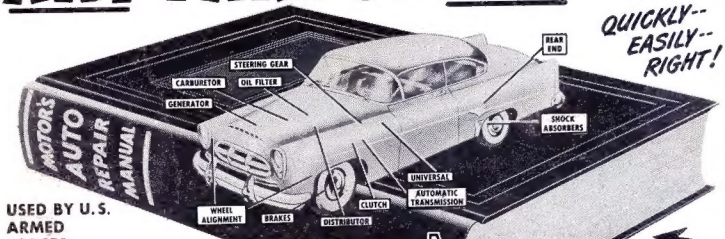
HE'S NOT JUST "THROWING IT AWAY" LORELEI, WITHOUT PLANNING TO GAIN SOMETHING *MORE VALUABLE* IN RETURN!

HOW TO FIX

Brakes, Clutches, Transmissions, Rear Ends, Carburetors—*Yes,*

ANY PART OF ANY CAR

QUICKLY--EASILY--RIGHT!



USED BY U.S. ARMED FORCES

NOW—Whether You're a Beginner or an Expert Mechanic —You Can "Breeze Through" ANY AUTO REPAIR JOB! MOTOR'S BIG BRAND-NEW AUTO REPAIR MANUAL Shows You HOW—With 2900 PICTURES AND SIMPLE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS.

Free 7-DAY TRIAL

Return and Pay Nothing If Not Satisfied!

COVERS EVERY JOB ON EVERY CAR BUILT FROM 1940 THRU 1955

YES, it's easy as A-B-C to do any "fix-it" job on any car whether it's a simple carburetor adjustment or a complete overhaul. Just look up the job in the index of MOTOR'S New AUTO REPAIR MANUAL. Turn to pages covering job. Follow the clear, illustrated step-by-step instructions. Presto—the job is done!

No guesswork! MOTOR'S Manual takes nothing for granted. Tells you where to start. What tools to use. Then it leads you easily and quickly through the entire operation!

Over 2,900 Pictures! So Complete, So Simple, You CAN'T Go Wrong!

BRAND-NEW REVISED Edition covers everything you need to know to repair over 737 chassis models. Over ONE THOUSAND giant pages, 2,900 "This-Is-How" pictures. Over 291 "Quick-Check" charts—more than 23,436 essential repair specifications. Over 225,000 service and repair facts. Instructions and pictures are so clear you *can't* go wrong!

Even a green beginner mechanic can do a good job with this giant manual before him. And if you're a top-notch mechanic, you'll find short-cuts that will amaze you. No wonder this guide is used by the U. S. Army and Navy! No wonder hundreds of thousands of men call it the "Auto Repair Man's Bible"!

Same FREE Offer On MOTOR'S Truck and Tractor Manual

Covers EVERY job on EVERY popular make gasoline truck, tractor made from 1946 thru 1954. FREE 7-Day Trial. Check proper box in coupon.

Meat of Over 160 Official Shop Manuals

Engineers from every automobile plant in America worked out these time-saving procedures for their own motor car line. Now the editors of MOTOR have gathered together this wealth of "Know-How" from over 160 Official Shop Manuals, "boiled it down" into crystal-clear terms in one handy indexed book!

Try Book FREE 7 Days

SEND NO MONEY! Just mail coupon! When the postman brings book, pay him nothing. First, make it show you what it's got! Unless you agree this is the greatest time-saver and work-saver you've ever seen — return book in 7 days and pay nothing. Mail coupon today! Address: *MOTOR Book Dept., 911 250 West 55th St., N. Y. 19, N. Y.*

Covers 737 Models—All These Makes

Buick	Ford	Nash
Cadillac	Frazer	Oldsmobile
Chevrolet	Henry J	Packard
Chrysler	Hudson	Plymouth
Crosley	Kaiser	Pontiac
De Soto	Lincoln	Studebaker
Dodge	Mercury	Willys

Many Letters of Praise from Users

"MOTOR'S Manual paid for itself on the first 2 jobs, and saved me valuable time by eliminating guesswork."
—W. SCHROP, Ohio.

He Does Job in 30 Min.—Fixed motor another mechanic had worked on half a day. With your Manual I did it in 30 minutes."
—C. AUBERRY, Tenn.

MAIL COUPON NOW FOR 7-DAY FREE TRIAL

MOTOR BOOK DEPT.
Desk 911, 250 W. 55th St., New York 19, N.Y.

Rush me at once (check box opposite book you want):

☐ **MOTOR'S New AUTO REPAIR MANUAL.** If O.K., I will remit $2 in 7 days, $2 monthly for 2 months and a final payment of 95c (plus 35c delivery charges) one month after that. Otherwise I will return the book postpaid in 7 days. *(Foreign price, remit $9 cash with order.)*

☐ **MOTOR'S New TRUCK & TRACTOR REPAIR MANUAL.** If O.K., I will remit $2 in 7 days, and $2 monthly for 3 months, plus 35c delivery charges with final payment. Otherwise I will return book postpaid in 7 days. *(Foreign price, remit $10 cash with order.)*

Print Name..... Age.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

☐ Check box and save 35c shipping charge by enclosing WITH coupon entire payment of $6.95 for Auto Repair Manual (or $8.95 for Truck and Tractor Repair Manual.) Same 7-day return-refund privilege applies.

BIG TOWN

MAZDA LANE! THE VERY NAME RESOUNDS TO THEATRICAL TRIUMPHS AND GLAMOROUS STAGE STARS! FOR **MAZDA LANE** IS THE **GREAT WHITE WAY OF BIG TOWN!** AND ALONG IT ONE DAY THERE APPEARED THE MOST COLORFUL FIGURE OF RECENT TIMES -- A MASKED "ANGEL" -- OR PLAY-BACKER -- WITH POCKETFULS OF CASH THAT DREW ACTORS AND WRITERS TO HIM LIKE MAGNETS -- PLUS A FEW MEMBERS OF THE UNDERWORLD TO BOOT!

The MYSTERIOUS STRANGER of MAZDA LANE

WILLARD WRIGHT (DRAMA CRITIC)

FRED SPARKS (ACTORS' AGENT)

JEREMY JONES (ACTOR)

CYRIL HATCHER (DIRECTOR)

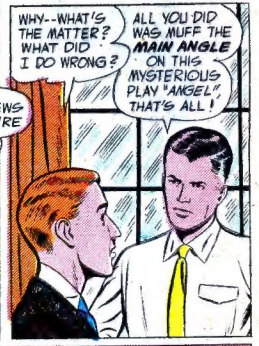
RUSTY (GANGSTER)

BIG TOWN, No. 36, Nov.-Dec., 1955. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., and and DICKEY STREETS, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial and Executive offices, 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1955 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

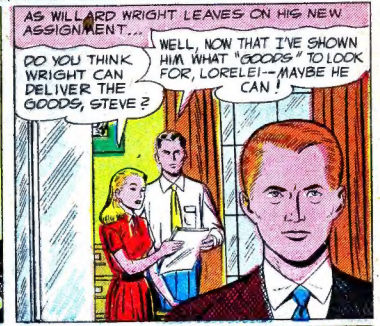
Printed in U.S.A.

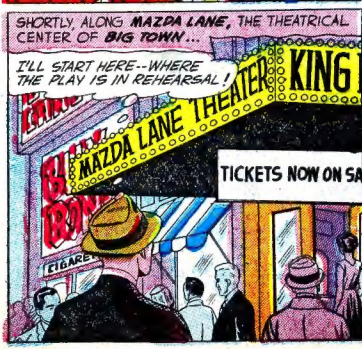
ON THE SPLIT-PAGE OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS ONE MORNING...
ALONG MAZDA LANE
WITH WILLARD WRIGHT
MASKED "ANGEL" TO BACK PLAY!
MYSTERY MAN PUTS UP $50,000 CASH TO BACK NEW VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "KING LEAR"

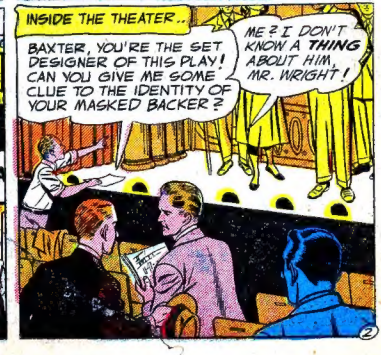
IN EDITOR STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE, LATER THAT DAY...
CHIEF, HOW DID YOU LIKE THE "MASKED ANGEL" STORY I WROTE? NOT BAD FOR A DRAMA CRITIC, EH?
WILLARD, AS A NEWS REPORTER, YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT DRAMA CRITIC!


WHY--WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
ALL YOU DID WAS MUFF THE MAIN ANGLE ON THIS MYSTERIOUS PLAY "ANGEL," THAT'S ALL!

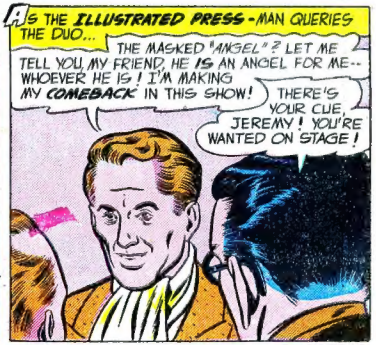
THE REAL STORY IS WHO IS THIS MASKED MIDAS? WHY DOES HE KEEP HIS IDENTITY SECRET? NOW--DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS, WILLARD?
I--I'D LIKE TO TRY, STEVE!

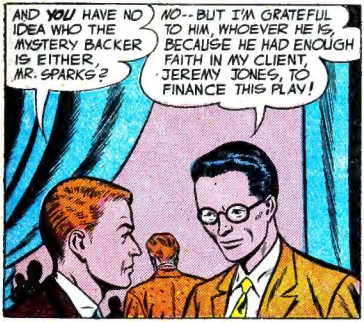

AS WILLARD WRIGHT LEAVES ON HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT...
DO YOU THINK WRIGHT CAN DELIVER THE GOODS, STEVE?
WELL, NOW THAT I'VE SHOWN HIM WHAT "GOODS" TO LOOK FOR, LORELEI--MAYBE HE CAN!


SHORTLY, ALONG MAZDA LANE, THE THEATRICAL CENTER OF BIG TOWN...
I'LL START HERE--WHERE THE PLAY IS IN REHEARSAL!
MAZDA LANE THEATER
KING
TICKETS NOW ON SA
CIGARETTES


INSIDE THE THEATER..
BAXTER, YOU'RE THE SET DESIGNER OF THIS PLAY! CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME CLUE TO THE IDENTITY OF YOUR MASKED BACKER?
ME? I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HIM, MR. WRIGHT!

NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MASKED "ANGEL"! THERE'S JEREMY JONES, THE STAR OF THE SHOW--AND HIS AGENT, FRED SPARKS! I'LL ASK THEM...


AS THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS-MAN QUERIES THE DUO...
THE MASKED "ANGEL"? LET ME TELL YOU, MY FRIEND, HE IS AN ANGEL FOR ME--WHOEVER HE IS! I'M MAKING MY COMEBACK IN THIS SHOW!
THERE'S YOUR CUE, JEREMY! YOU'RE WANTED ON STAGE!


AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE MYSTERY BACKER IS EITHER, MR. SPARKS?
NO--BUT I'M GRATEFUL TO HIM, WHOEVER HE IS, BECAUSE HE HAD ENOUGH FAITH IN MY CLIENT, JEREMY JONES, TO FINANCE THIS PLAY!

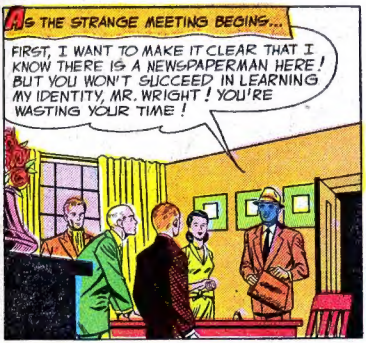
THE ONLY ONE LEFT NOW WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME SOLVE THIS MYSTERY IS CYRIL HATCHER, THE DIRECTOR!

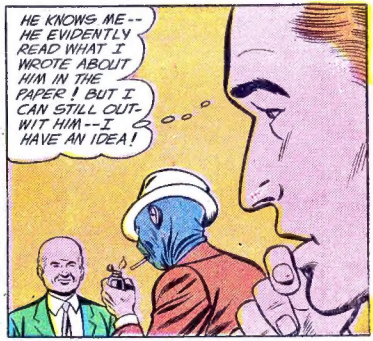
AS THE CRITIC-TURNED-REPORTER CONFRONTS THE DIRECTOR...
NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO THE MYSTERY-MAN IS, WILLARD! BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS--I JUST RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIM! HE WANTS US TO MEET HIM AT THE BIG TOWN HOTEL...

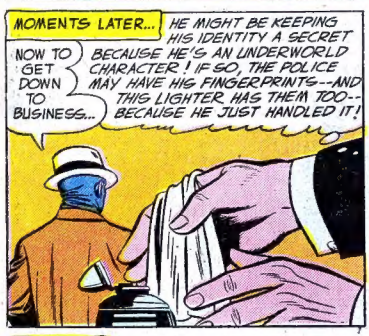
HE'S GOING TO TURN OVER THE LAST $25,000 NEEDED TO PRODUCE THE PLAY!
I SEE! WELL, THANK YOU, MR. HATCHER! YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL!

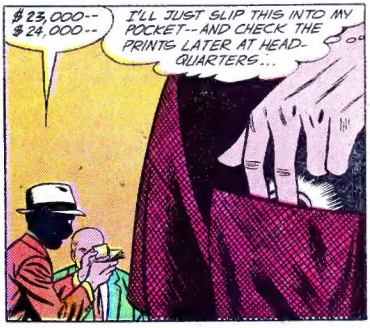
IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE, SHORTLY AFTER...
YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ON MY PROGRESS, STEVE! I'VE BEEN DOING PRETTY GOOD! TOMORROW NIGHT I'M GOING TO MEET MR. MYSTERY MAN FACE TO FACE!
NICE GOING, WILLARD--KEEP ON THE TRAIL!

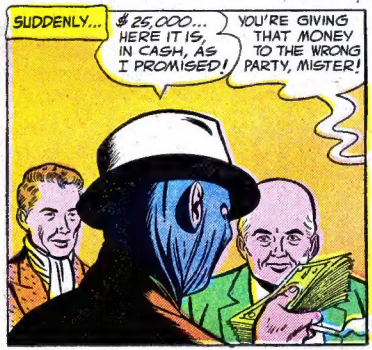
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN A GANGSTER'S HIDEOUT SOMEWHERE IN BIG TOWN...
I SEE BY THE PAPER THAT THIS REPORTER, WILLARD WRIGHT, IS GOING TO EXPOSE THE IDENTITY OF THAT MYSTERIOUS PLAY PRODUCER BY TOMORROW! IT GIVES ME AN IDEA ...
SPORTS
HOW WOULD YOU GUYS LIKE TO ROB A BANK?
BANKS ARE TOO WELL PROTECTED THESE DAYS, RUSTY!
YEAH! CAN'T YOU PICK ON SOMETHING EASY?
WAIT--I MEAN A HUMAN "BANK"--THIS MYSTERY "ANGEL" THAT GOES AROUND LOADED WITH CASH AND IS BACKING THAT PLAY ON MAZDA LANE!
THAT GUY? BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS OR WHERE TO FIND HIM!
I DO! THIS NEWSPAPERMAN, WRIGHT, SAYS HE IS GOING TO MEET THE MYSTERY MAN SOMEWHERE TONIGHT--BUT HE DOESN'T SAY WHERE! NOW ALL WE GOT TO DO IS..BZZZZZ...
THAT NIGHT IN THE BIG TOWN HOTEL ...
WE'RE ON TIME, WILLARD! OUR MASKED BACKER IS DUE ANY MOMENT...
LOOK! THE DOOR IS OPENING!
THERE HE IS!
I'VE GOT TO PIERCE HIS DISGUISE--AND FIND OUT WHO HE IS!

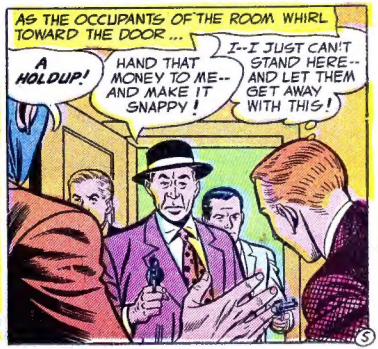

AS THE STRANGE MEETING BEGINS...
FIRST, I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I KNOW THERE IS A NEWSPAPERMAN HERE! BUT YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN LEARNING MY IDENTITY, MR. WRIGHT! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!

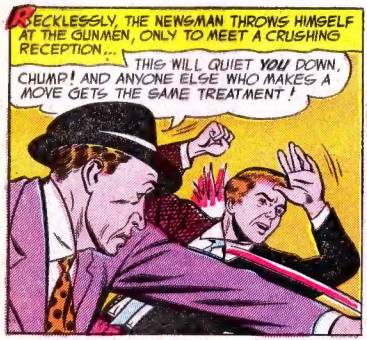

HE KNOWS ME--HE EVIDENTLY READ WHAT I WROTE ABOUT HIM IN THE PAPER! BUT I CAN STILL OUT-WIT HIM--I HAVE AN IDEA!

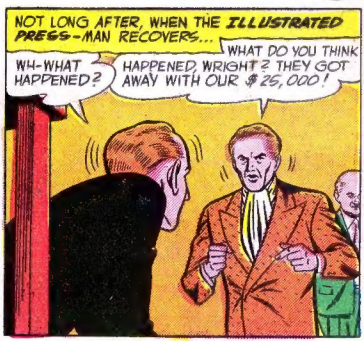

MOMENTS LATER...
NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS...
HE MIGHT BE KEEPING HIS IDENTITY A SECRET BECAUSE HE'S AN UNDERWORLD CHARACTER! IF SO, THE POLICE MAY HAVE HIS FINGERPRINTS--AND THIS LIGHTER HAS THEM TOO--BECAUSE HE JUST HANDLED IT!

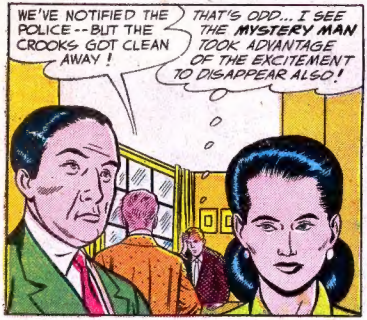

$23,000--
$24,000--
I'LL JUST SLIP THIS INTO MY POCKET--AND CHECK THE PRINTS LATER AT HEAD-QUARTERS...

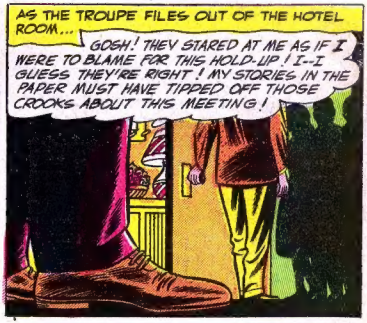

SUDDENLY...
$25,000... HERE IT IS, IN CASH, AS I PROMISED!
YOU'RE GIVING THAT MONEY TO THE WRONG PARTY, MISTER!

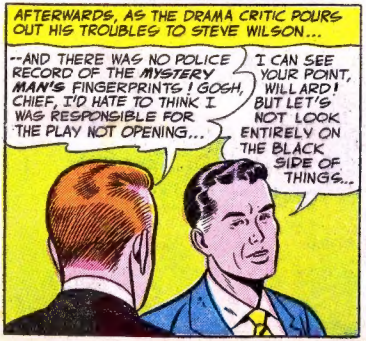

AS THE OCCUPANTS OF THE ROOM WHIRL TOWARD THE DOOR...
A HOLDUP!
HAND THAT MONEY TO ME--AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!
I--I JUST CAN'T STAND HERE--AND LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS!


RECKLESSLY, THE NEWSMAN THROWS HIMSELF AT THE GUNMEN, ONLY TO MEET A CRUSHING RECEPTION...
THIS WILL QUIET YOU DOWN, CHUMP! AND ANYONE ELSE WHO MAKES A MOVE GETS THE SAME TREATMENT!


NOT LONG AFTER, WHEN THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS-MAN RECOVERS...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
HAPPENED, WRIGHT? THEY GOT AWAY WITH OUR $25,000!
WHAT DO YOU THINK


WE'VE NOTIFIED THE POLICE--BUT THE CROOKS GOT CLEAN AWAY!
THAT'S ODD... I SEE THE MYSTERY MAN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE EXCITEMENT TO DISAPPEAR ALSO!


AS THE TROUPE FILES OUT OF THE HOTEL ROOM...
GOSH! THEY STARED AT ME AS IF I WERE TO BLAME FOR THIS HOLD-UP! I--I GUESS THEY'RE RIGHT! MY STORIES IN THE PAPER MUST HAVE TIPPED OFF THOSE CROOKS ABOUT THIS MEETING!


AFTERWARDS, AS THE DRAMA CRITIC POURS OUT HIS TROUBLES TO STEVE WILSON...
--AND THERE WAS NO POLICE RECORD OF THE MYSTERY MAN'S FINGERPRINTS! GOSH, CHIEF, I'D HATE TO THINK I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLAY NOT OPENING...
I CAN SEE YOUR POINT, WILLARD! BUT LET'S NOT LOOK ENTIRELY ON THE BLACK SIDE OF THINGS...

FOR INSTANCE, SUPPOSE--JUST SUPPOSE--OUR MYSTERY MAN TURNS UP AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT WITH ANOTHER $25,000!
HUH? GOSH, STEVE--YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING THERE! AND IT COULD HAPPEN!

THE NEXT EVENING, AT A DRESS REHEARSAL OF KING LEAR...
MAKE YOUR PERFORMANCE ON OPENING NIGHT AS GOOD AS THIS RUN-THROUGH, JEREMY, AND YOU'LL BE A SENSATIONAL HIT!
THANKS, FRED! I HOPE SO!

SUDDENLY, FROM THE BACK OF THE THEATER A FIGURE STRIDES DOWN THE CENTER AISLE...
IT'S THE MYSTERY-MAN!

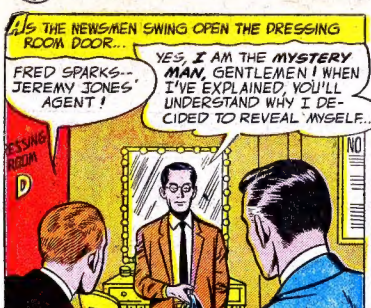
AT THAT MOMENT, IN A CORNER OF THE DARKENED AUDITORIUM...
THERE HE IS, RUSTY--JUST LIKE WILLARD WRIGHT SAID IN THE PAPER TODAY!
HE MUST BE CARRYIN' A WAD OF DOUGH ON HIM! LET'S NAB HIM!

BUT AS THE CROOKS DASH AT THEIR PREY, A MASK IS SUDDENLY PULLED ASIDE, TO REVEAL...
WE'LL TAKE ALL THE CASH--HUH??
IT'S STEVE WILSON! WE--WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!

THEN, AT A SIGNAL FROM THE ACE NEWSMAN, UNIFORMED MEN APPEAR ON ALL SIDES...
THROW UP YOUR HANDS--ALL OF YOU!
THE POLICE!

SHORTLY, AFTER THE CROOKS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...
--AND BECAUSE OF HIS PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO THE MYSTERY MAN, LT. GREGGORY, STEVE DECIDED TO MASQUERADE AS HIM!
I SEE--AND YOUR PIECE IN THE PAPER TODAY--PREDICTING THAT THE MYSTERY MAN WOULD APPEAR HERE--LURED THE GANG INTO THIS TRAP!

SOON AFTER, STEVE IS HANDED A NOTE...
"COME TO DRESSING ROOM D--AND I WILL REVEAL MYSELF! (SIGNED) THE MASKED ANGEL'!"
LET'S GO, CHIEF!


AS THE NEWSMEN SWING OPEN THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR...
FRED SPARKS--JEREMY JONES' AGENT!
YES, I AM THE MYSTERY MAN, GENTLEMEN! WHEN I'VE EXPLAINED, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I DECIDED TO REVEAL MYSELF..
DRESSING ROOM D
NO

I WANTED TO BACK A PLAY TO GIVE JEREMY JONES A CHANCE FOR A COMEBACK ON MAZDA LANE! BUT I KNEW HE WOULD NEVER LET ME--HIS OLD FRIEND--RISK MY OWN SAVINGS!
SO YOU INVENTED THE MASKED "ANGEL"--AND PLAYED THE ROLE--AN ACTOR FOR ONCE INSTEAD OF AN AGENT!

AFTER SPARKS HAS EXPLAINED THAT FEAR OF BEING EXPOSED BY THE NEWSMEN LED TO HIS REVEALING HIMSELF...
IF JEREMY FINDS OUT THE TRUTH, IT COULD STILL RUIN EVERYTHING! WILL YOU TWO PROMISE NOT TO PRINT THE TRUTH UNTIL AFTER OPENING NIGHT?
OF COURSE! YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH US, MR. SPARKS!
RAVE
NEWS

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, AS THE OPENING NIGHT CURTAIN RINGS DOWN TO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE...
JEREMY JONES IS GETTING THE APPLAUSE, STEVE--BUT THE REAL AND UNKNOWN STAR OF THIS PLAY IS AGENT FRED SPARKS!
RIGHT, WILLARD! NOW RUSH BACK TO THE OFFICE AND WRITE UP THE STORY WITH THAT ANGLE! IT'S GOING ON PAGE ONE!
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
The End
8

ADVERTISEMENT

DAISY GUNBOOK READY!

For Boys Girls and Dads

You'll enjoy seeing the historic rifles, pistols pictured in *gun section* of Daisy's new 128-page pocket-size Gunbook! A gun collector *authority* wrote each gun story. *Also* contains western lore, ranch-cowboy cartoons, jokes, comic strips *plus* latest Daisy Air Rifle Catalog. *All* only 25¢ including FREE ARROWHEAD CHARM. Hurry!

START A JUNIOR BB GUN CLUB!

Brochure tells how any junior, adult or group can start a club—based on the junior 15-foot (range) spring-type air rifle marksmanship program of National Rifle Association. Only 10¢.

FREE LUCKY ARROWHEAD CHARM With Gunbook!

DAISY BB RIFLE CATALOG IS IN GUN-BOOK

DAISY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, DEPT 1585, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.

☐ I enclose 25¢ in coin. Send Gunbook, FREE Arrowhead Charm, Daisy Catalog postpaid.

☐ I enclose 10¢. Send "Junior Air Rifle Club" Brochure, postpaid.

NAME_____

ST. & NO._____

CITY_____ STATE_____

BOYS AND GIRLS! NOW YOU CAN GET THE OFFICIAL SUPERMAN PLAYSUIT . . . AND JOIN MY FAN CLUB, TOO!

Copr. 1955. National Comics Publications, Inc.

YES! TELL MOM AND DAD THAT IT'S THE GIFT YOU WANT!

the OFFICIAL 4 piece

SUPERMAN PLAYSUIT

in LONG-LASTING RAYON GABARDINE, complete with BILLOWING CAPE . . .

only **6.98**

You get a full, bright red cape with Superman in "gold" right on the back, a shirt with the official Superman insignia, pants or a skirt and a plastic belt. Don't forget to tell Mom the suit is made to stand up under lots of hard play—it's made of fine washable rayon gabardine! In even sizes from 4 to 14.

MAIL TODAY!

BE THE FIRST OF YOUR FRIENDS TO GET THEM

FREE! FREE! With every Superman suit you will receive —

1 Special Magazine
2 SUPERMAN Certificate
3 Identification Card

ANRA INC.
P.O. BOX 21, New York 12, N. Y.

Please send me the following "Superman" playsuits at $6.98 each. Check or money order only.

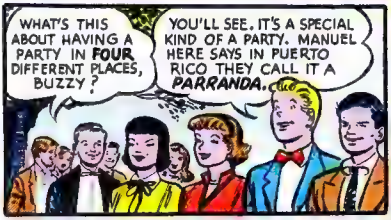
Quantity				Boys	
Size				Girls	

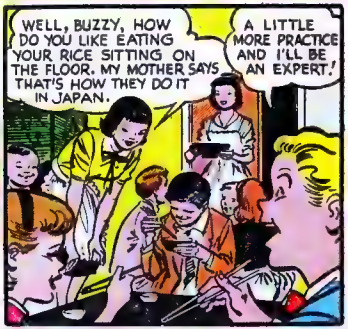
Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ Zone_____ State_____

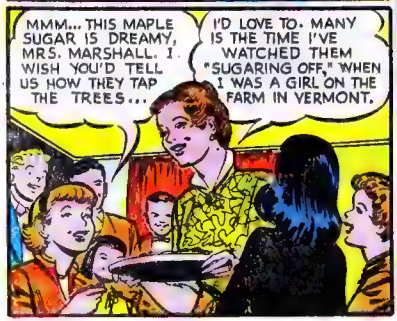
BUZZY asks: "DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?"


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT HAVING A PARTY IN FOUR DIFFERENT PLACES, BUZZY?
YOU'LL SEE. IT'S A SPECIAL KIND OF A PARTY. MANUEL HERE SAYS IN PUERTO RICO THEY CALL IT A PARRANDA.


WELL, BUZZY, HOW DO YOU LIKE EATING YOUR RICE SITTING ON THE FLOOR. MY MOTHER SAYS THAT'S HOW THEY DO IT IN JAPAN.
A LITTLE MORE PRACTICE AND I'LL BE AN EXPERT!

THEY STILL MAKE CORN BREAD THIS WAY IN PUERTO RICO. THE AMERICAN RECIPE HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE PONCE DE LEON BROUGHT IT HERE OVER 400 YEARS AGO.
DAD, SHOW THEM HOW THEY SERENADE THE GIRLS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT BACK IN PUERTO RICO.

ONE MORE STORY, AND THEN I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO DO A REAL IRISH JIG.
THEN I'LL SERVE THE PUDDING FROM THAT RECIPE I BROUGHT FROM IRELAND.


MMM... THIS MAPLE SUGAR IS DREAMY, MRS. MARSHALL. I WISH YOU'D TELL US HOW THEY TAP THE TREES...
I'D LOVE TO. MANY IS THE TIME I'VE WATCHED THEM "SUGARING OFF," WHEN I WAS A GIRL ON THE FARM IN VERMONT.

WHAT A SWELL PARTY, BUZZY! IT'S GOOD TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR DIFFERENT CUSTOMS.
YES, AND THE MORE YOU LEARN ABOUT THEM, THE BETTER NEIGHBORS YOU CAN BE!

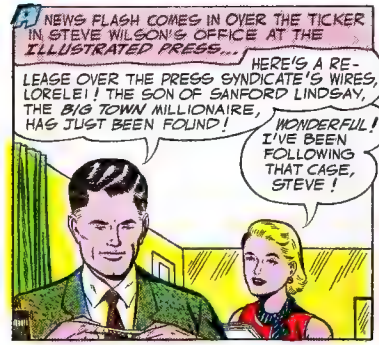
PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

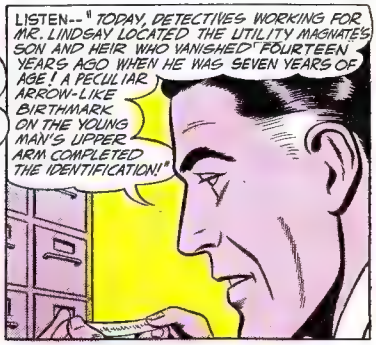
BIG TOWN

ALL THREE OF THESE YOUNG MEN HAVE MY SON'S BIRTHMARK ON THEIR ARMS, STEVE--BUT THEY CAN'T ALL BE MY MISSING HEIR!
TWO OF THEM ARE OBVIOUSLY LYING! AND I KNOW A FOOLPROOF METHOD OF REVEALING WHICH TWO!

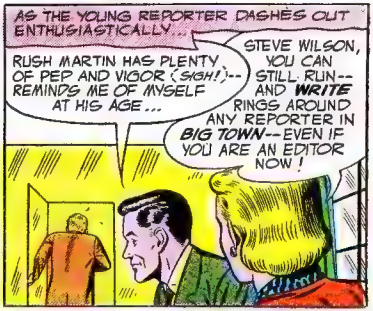
AS A FAVOR TO HIS OLD FRIEND--UTILITY MAGNATE SANFORD LINDSAY--ACE NEWSMAN STEVE WILSON UNDERTOOK A STRANGE TASK--TO EXPOSE THE TWO FALSE APPLICANTS AMONG THE THREE YOUNG MEN WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE MILLIONAIRE'S TRUE SON AND HEIR! BUT THE ONLY WAY THE ***ILLUSTRATED PRESS*** EDITOR COULD UNMASK THE TWO BOGUS HEIRS WAS TO OFFER HIMSELF AS THE LURING BAIT FOR A SURPRISE TRAP!

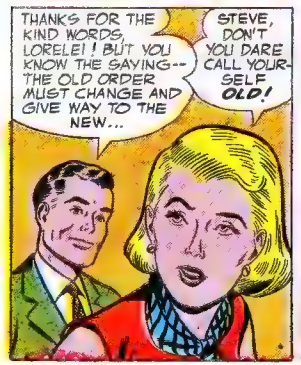
The FORTUNE-HUNTERS OF BIG TOWN!


A NEWS FLASH COMES IN OVER THE TICKER IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
HERE'S A RELEASE OVER THE PRESS SYNDICATE'S WIRES, LORELEI! THE SON OF SANFORD LINDSAY, THE BIG TOWN MILLIONAIRE, HAS JUST BEEN FOUND!
WONDERFUL! I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THAT CASE, STEVE!


LISTEN--"TODAY, DETECTIVES WORKING FOR MR. LINDSAY LOCATED THE UTILITY MAGNATE'S SON AND HEIR WHO VANISHED FOURTEEN YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS SEVEN YEARS OF AGE! A PECULIAR ARROW-LIKE BIRTHMARK ON THE YOUNG MAN'S UPPER ARM COMPLETED THE IDENTIFICATION!"

AS STEVE ASSIGNS REPORTER RUSH MARTIN TO THE STORY...
...AND THE DETECTIVES ARE BRINGING YOUNG JAN LINDSAY TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE! RUSH, I WANT YOU TO SHOOT OVER THERE AND COVER THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO!
RIGHT, MR. WILSON--I'M ON MY WAY!

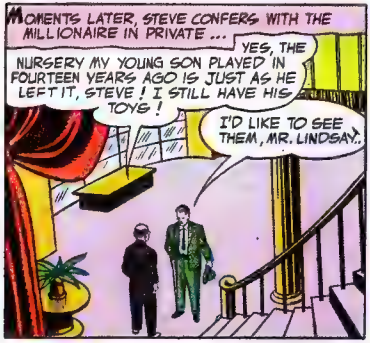

AS THE YOUNG REPORTER DASHES OUT ENTHUSIASTICALLY...
RUSH MARTIN HAS PLENTY OF PEP AND VIGOR (SIGH!)--REMINDS ME OF MYSELF AT HIS AGE...
STEVE WILSON, YOU CAN STILL RUN--AND WRITE RINGS AROUND ANY REPORTER IN BIG TOWN--EVEN IF YOU ARE AN EDITOR NOW!

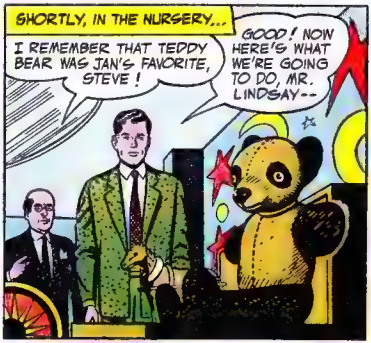

THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS, LORELEI! BUT YOU KNOW THE SAYING--THE OLD ORDER MUST CHANGE AND GIVE WAY TO THE NEW...
STEVE, DON'T YOU DARE CALL YOURSELF OLD!

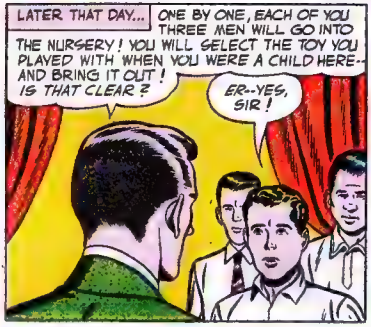
LATER, THAT AFTERNOON, STEVE GETS A PHONE CALL FROM RUSH...
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. WILSON! THE DETECTIVES BROUGHT IN ONE HEIR--BUT TWO OTHERS SHOWED UP--AND NOW THERE ARE THREE HERE AND ALL OF THEM HAVE THOSE SAME ARROW MARKS ON THEIR ARMS!
MAN--WHAT A SURPRISE STORY THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE!

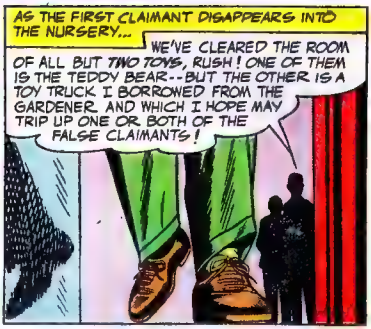
MR. SANFORD LINDSAY WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, CHIEF! PLEASE HOLD ON--HE'S RIGHT HERE!

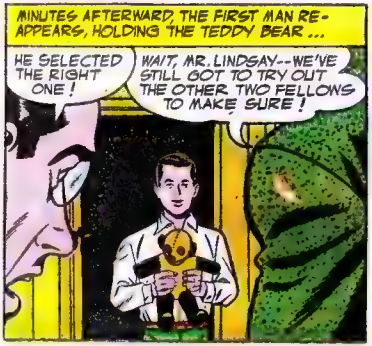
STEVE, YOU AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME--AND AS AN OLD FRIEND I'M ASKING YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR--PLEASE GET DOWN HERE RIGHT AWAY!
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, MR. LINDSAY, I CAN'T REFUSE!
SOON AFTER, STEVE DRIVES INTO THE SUMPTUOUS LINDSAY ESTATE...
WELL, LOOKS LIKE I'M BACK IN ACTION AGAIN! I HOPE I CAN HELP MR. LINDSAY... HE SEEMS TO HAVE A WORLD OF CONFIDENCE IN ME!
SHORTLY, IN THE DRAWING ROOM OF THE MANSION...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR INSIGHT INTO HUMAN NATURE THAT I ASKED YOU HERE, STEVE! ANY ONE OF THOSE THREE YOUNG MEN COULD BE MY SON JAN! THEY ALL CLAIM TO BE--BUT TWO OF THEM ARE OBVIOUSLY LYING...
THEY ALL HAVE IDENTICAL ARROW-BIRTHMARKS--BUT TWO OF THOSE MARKS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TATTOOED ON!
I SEE--WITH YOUR PERMISSION, MR. LINDSAY, I'D LIKE TO QUESTION THESE YOUNG MEN--
AS THE VETERAN NEWSHAWK QUERIES THE CLAIMANTS...
--AND I DIMLY REMEMBER THIS HOUSE--THIS ROOM, MR. WILSON!
THEY ALL CLAIM TO REMEMBER THIS HOUSE, BUT THEY CAN'T ALL BE TELLING THE TRUTH! HMMM! I HAVE AN IDEA...

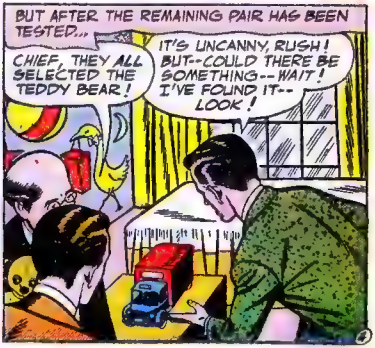

MOMENTS LATER, STEVE CONFERS WITH THE MILLIONAIRE IN PRIVATE ...
YES, THE NURSERY MY YOUNG SON PLAYED IN FOURTEEN YEARS AGO IS JUST AS HE LEFT IT, STEVE ! I STILL HAVE HIS TOYS !
I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM, MR. LINDSAY.

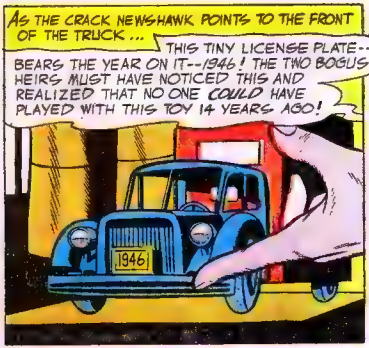

SHORTLY, IN THE NURSERY...
I REMEMBER THAT TEDDY BEAR WAS JAN'S FAVORITE, STEVE !
GOOD ! NOW HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, MR. LINDSAY--


LATER THAT DAY...
ONE BY ONE, EACH OF YOU THREE MEN WILL GO INTO THE NURSERY ! YOU WILL SELECT THE TOY YOU PLAYED WITH WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD HERE-- AND BRING IT OUT ! IS THAT CLEAR ?
ER--YES, SIR !


AS THE FIRST CLAIMANT DISAPPEARS INTO THE NURSERY...
WE'VE CLEARED THE ROOM OF ALL BUT TWO TOYS, RUSH ! ONE OF THEM IS THE TEDDY BEAR--BUT THE OTHER IS A TOY TRUCK I BORROWED FROM THE GARDENER AND WHICH I HOPE MAY TRIP UP ONE OR BOTH OF THE FALSE CLAIMANTS !

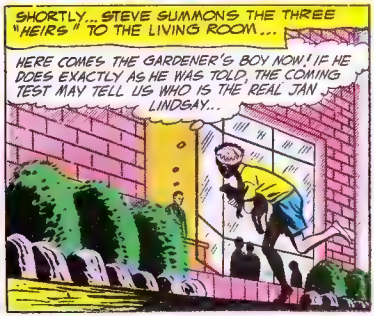

MINUTES AFTERWARD, THE FIRST MAN RE-APPEARS, HOLDING THE TEDDY BEAR ...
HE SELECTED THE RIGHT ONE !
WAIT, MR. LINDSAY--WE'VE STILL GOT TO TRY OUT THE OTHER TWO FELLOWS TO MAKE SURE !

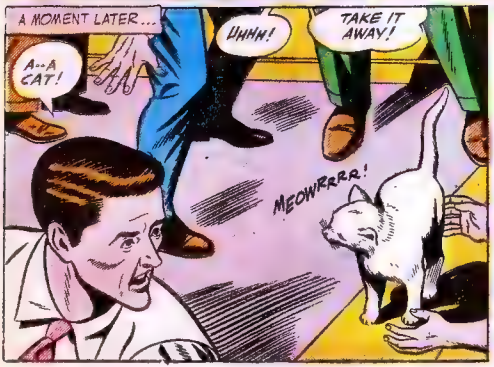

BUT AFTER THE REMAINING PAIR HAS BEEN TESTED...
CHIEF, THEY ALL SELECTED THE TEDDY BEAR !
IT'S UNCANNY, RUSH ! BUT--COULD THERE BE SOMETHING--WAIT ! I'VE FOUND IT-- LOOK !

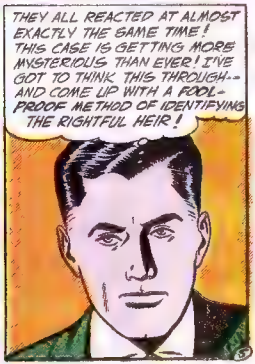

AS THE CRACK NEWSHAWK POINTS TO THE FRONT OF THE TRUCK...
THIS TINY LICENSE PLATE--BEARS THE YEAR ON IT--1946! THE TWO BOGUS HEIRS MUST HAVE NOTICED THIS AND REALIZED THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE PLAYED WITH THIS TOY 14 YEARS AGO!
1946

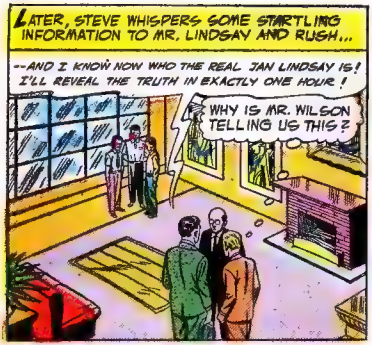
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN FIND OUT THE TRUTH, MR. LINDSAY! TELL ME, WAS THERE ANY ANIMAL YOUR SON WAS PARTICULARLY FOND OF--OR MAYBE AFRAID OF?
WHY--YES--YOU'VE MADE ME RECALL SOMETHING, STEVE!

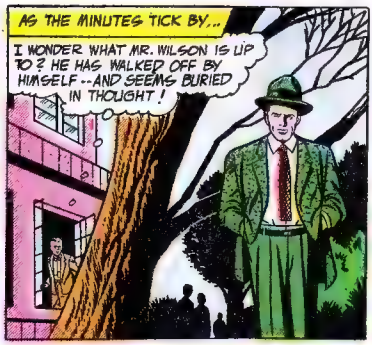
JAN WAS SCARED OF CATS! I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY--BUT IF A CAT EVEN ENTERED THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM, IT PRACTICALLY PARALYZED HIM WITH FRIGHT! BUT WHAT MAKES YOU ASK?
I'LL SHOW YOU, MR. LINDSAY...!


SHORTLY... STEVE SUMMONS THE THREE "HEIRS" TO THE LIVING ROOM...
HERE COMES THE GARDENER'S BOY NOW! IF HE DOES EXACTLY AS HE WAS TOLD, THE COMING TEST MAY TELL US WHO IS THE REAL JAN LINDSAY...


A MOMENT LATER...
A--A CAT!
UHHH!
TAKE IT AWAY!
MEOWRRR!


THEY ALL REACTED AT ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME TIME! THIS CASE IS GETTING MORE MYSTERIOUS THAN EVER! I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS THROUGH--AND COME UP WITH A FOOL-PROOF METHOD OF IDENTIFYING THE RIGHTFUL HEIR!

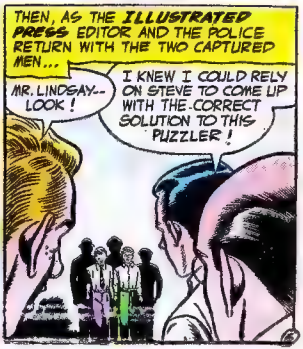

LATER, STEVE WHISPERS SOME STARTLING INFORMATION TO MR. LINDSAY AND RUSH...
--AND I KNOW NOW WHO THE REAL JAN LINDSAY IS! I'LL REVEAL THE TRUTH IN EXACTLY ONE HOUR!
WHY IS MR. WILSON TELLING US THIS?


AS THE MINUTES TICK BY...
I WONDER WHAT MR. WILSON IS UP TO? HE HAS WALKED OFF BY HIMSELF--AND SEEMS BURIED IN THOUGHT!

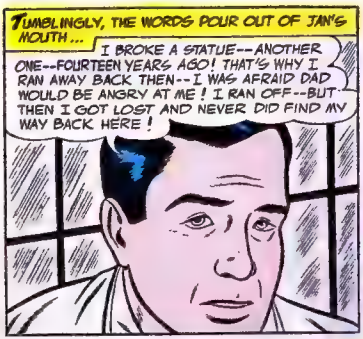
SHORTLY, IN THE WOODS THAT ARE PART OF THE MILLIONAIRE'S ESTATE...
WILL MY PLAN WORK? I'M RISKING EVERY-THING THAT IT DOES!
HERE HE COMES! GET SET...

THE NEXT MOMENT, TWO MASKED MEN LEAP AT STEVE...
AH! FLUSHED OUT BOTH YOU PHONIES!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EXPOSE US, WILSON!

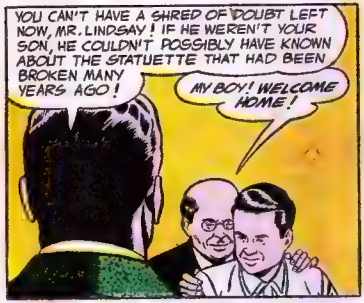
SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND NEARBY BUSHES, TWO CONCEALED POLICEMEN RUSH OUT AND...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO EXPOSE--SO I ARRANGED FOR YOU TO EXPOSE YOURSELVES TO THE LAW!

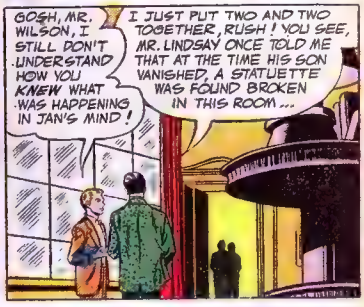

THEN, AS THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS EDITOR AND THE POLICE RETURN WITH THE TWO CAPTURED MEN...
MR. LINDSAY--LOOK!
I KNEW I COULD RELY ON STEVE TO COME UP WITH THE CORRECT SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLER!

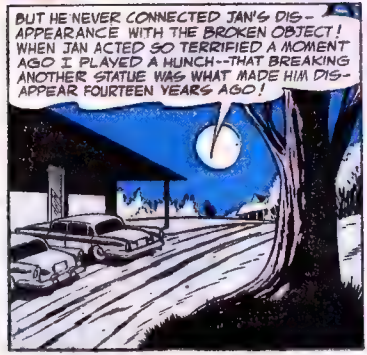
THESE ARE THE TWO FALSE CLAIMANTS, MR. LINDSAY! THEY GANGED UP ON ME TO TRY AND PREVENT ME FROM REVEALING WHO WAS THE REAL HEIR! BUT THEY ONLY SUCCEEDED IN GIVING THEMSELVES AWAY!
LATER, AFTER THE MASQUERADING DUO HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE POLICE...
--AND I KNEW THAT THIS MAIN LIVING ROOM IN THE HOUSE ACTS LIKE A WHISPERING GALLERY, RUSH!
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE IT, BUT THE THREE CLAIMANTS COULD HEAR ME WHEN I SAID I WAS GOING TO REVEAL THE TRUE HEIR IN ONE HOUR!
I SEE! BUT YOU TOOK A DANGEROUS CHANCE, MR. WILSON! YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN HURT!
I HAD TO RISK IT FOR MR. LINDSAY'S SAKE, RUSH! BUT WHY'S HE GOT THAT FORLORN LOOK ON HIS FACE?
IF--IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD BE SURE HE IS MY SON, STEVE! THIS AFFAIR HAS UPSET ME--I'VE BEGUN TO DOUBT EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH IT!
SUDDENLY, AS JAN LINDSAY ENTERS THE ROOM...
OHH!
I ACCIDENTALLY BROKE THAT VALUABLE STATUETTE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--!
CRASH!
THE NEXT MOMENT AS THE ACE NEWSHAWK ACTS TO PREVENT THE YOUTH FROM DASHING OUT OF THE HOUSE...
JAN! RUNNING AWAY WON'T HELP! YOU TRIED THAT ONCE BEFORE--
TAKE IT EASY, REMEMBER?
I RAN AWAY--? YES, YES...I DO REMEMBER NOW, MR. WILSON!


TUMBLINGLY, THE WORDS POUR OUT OF JAN'S MOUTH...
I BROKE A STATUE--ANOTHER ONE--FOURTEEN YEARS AGO! THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY BACK THEN--I WAS AFRAID DAD WOULD BE ANGRY AT ME! I RAN OFF--BUT THEN I GOT LOST AND NEVER DID FIND MY WAY BACK HERE!

YES--AND JUST NOW YOU ALMOST RAN AWAY AGAIN BECAUSE THE OLD FEELING OF GUILT, WHICH YOU'D FORGOTTEN, ROSE UP AND YOU BLINDLY TRIED TO ESCAPE IT!


YOU CAN'T HAVE A SHRED OF DOUBT LEFT NOW, MR. LINDSAY! IF HE WEREN'T YOUR SON, HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE STATUETTE THAT HAD BEEN BROKEN MANY YEARS AGO!
MY BOY! WELCOME HOME!


GOSH, MR. WILSON, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN JAN'S MIND!
I JUST PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, RUSH! YOU SEE, MR. LINDSAY ONCE TOLD ME THAT AT THE TIME HIS SON VANISHED, A STATUETTE WAS FOUND BROKEN IN THIS ROOM...


BUT HE NEVER CONNECTED JAN'S DISAPPEARANCE WITH THE BROKEN OBJECT! WHEN JAN ACTED SO TERRIFIED A MOMENT AGO I PLAYED A HUNCH--THAT BREAKING ANOTHER STATUE WAS WHAT MADE HIM DISAPPEAR FOURTEEN YEARS AGO!

LATER, WHEN STEVE AND LORELEI LOOK OVER THE NEW EDITION OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
AHEM! FOR AN "OLD-TIMER" I'D SAY YOU DID PRETTY WELL, STEVE!
CUT THAT OUT, WILL YOU, LORELEI? I PROMISED I WOULDN'T CALL MYSELF "OLD" AGAIN, REMEMBER?
ILLUSTRATED PRESS
TRUE LINDSAY HEIR IDENTIFIED BY STEVE WILSON!
The End

We Point with Pride to our HALL of TROPHIES!

NATIONAL COMICS (SUPERMAN-DC)
is proud of the awards it has won for
MERIT and **PUBLIC SERVICE**

For Example

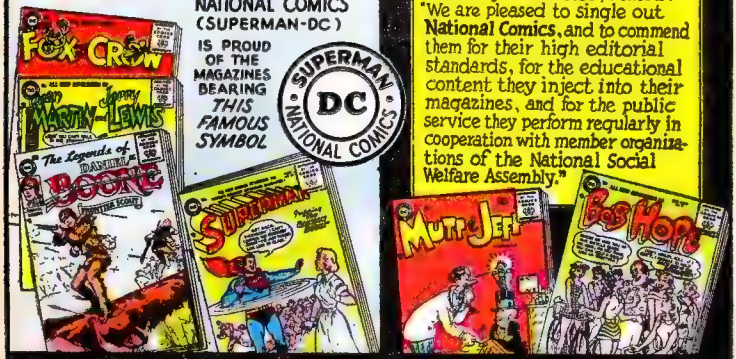
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION MEDALLION OF HONOR

An award for
"CONSTRUCTIVE ADVANCEMENT IN COMIC BOOKS"
by the Permanent Committee for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

In making this award, Mrs. Grace Harriman of the Exposition's Advisory Committee, stated: "We are pleased to single out **National Comics**, and to commend them for their high editorial standards, for the educational content they inject into their magazines, and for the public service they perform regularly in cooperation with member organizations of the National Social Welfare Assembly."

And of course NATIONAL COMICS (SUPERMAN-DC) IS PROUD OF THE MAGAZINES BEARING *THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL*

SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS



Magazines with *ACTION, ADVENTURE and HUMOR* in GOOD TASTE!

NEW ALUMINUM PACKAGE

keeps GOOD LUCK Fresher and Better Tasting

than any other margarine!

BUY IT we know you'll agree! GOOD LUCK margarine *stays fresher* and *tastes better* than any other margarine because GOOD LUCK is the *only* margarine double wrapped and sealed in Reynolds Wrap Aluminum foil.

First we wrap each quarter pound of GOOD LUCK in pure aluminum. Next we place the four quarters in a waxed carton. *Then we wrap the carton in an outer wrap of shiny aluminum foil* and seal it tight. This keeps GOOD LUCK fresher and better tasting than any other margarine.

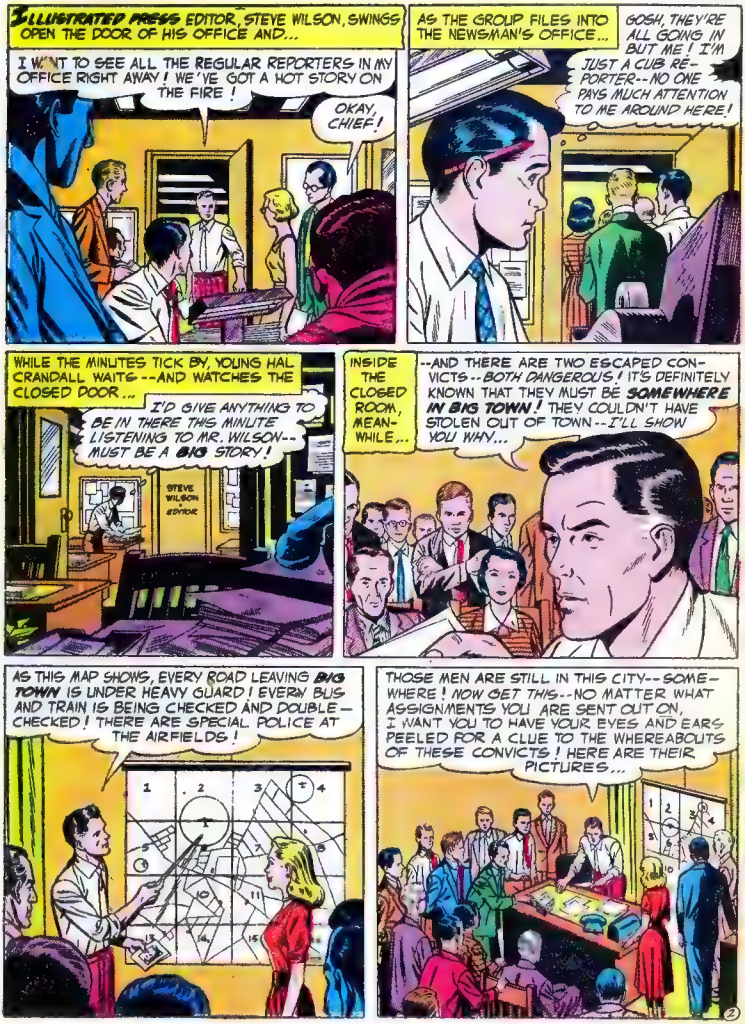
We guarantee that you'll like GOOD LUCK in its new aluminum package better than any other spread you've ever tasted or we'll refund your money.

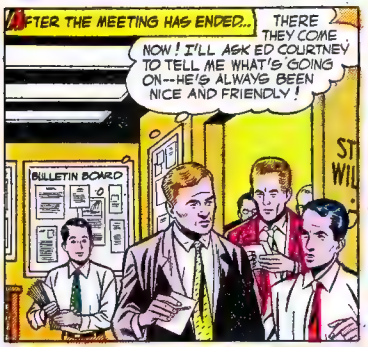
If you don't agree, just drop a line to Lever Brothers Company, 390 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., enclosing the guarantee panel from the GOOD LUCK package. We'll send you every penny you paid.

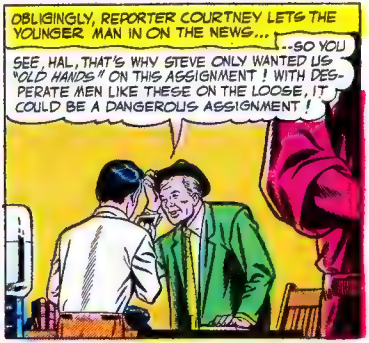
BIG TOWN
WHAT MADE YOU THINK YOU COULD HOLD US PRISONERS HERE, KID?
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE TWO ESCAPED CONVICTS FROM GETTING AWAY FROM HERE! B-BUT HOW?

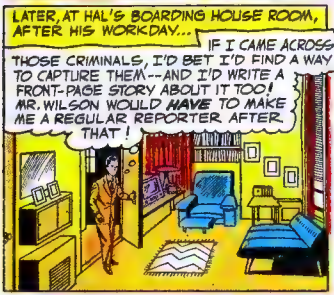
YOUNG HAL COURTNEY, CUB REPORTER FOR THE *ILLUSTRATED PRESS*, ENVIED THE VETERAN REPORTERS WHO, UNDER STEVE WILSON'S EDITORIAL DIRECTION, WERE HANDED ADVENTUROUS ASSIGNMENTS IN *BIG TOWN*, AND THEN WROTE THE STORIES THAT WERE PRINTED UNDER THEIR BY-LINES!
HAL THOUGHT THE DAY WAS A LONG WAY OFF TILL HE WOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO COVER HIS *BIG STORY*— BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE COLLIDED WITH ...

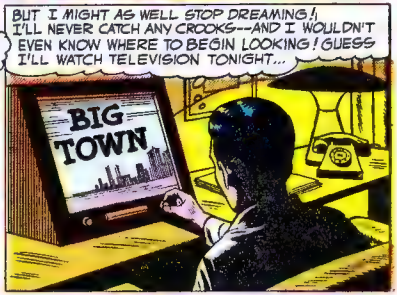
The PRISONERS of THUNDER HILL!

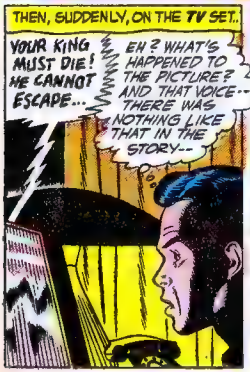

ILLUSTRATED PRESS EDITOR, STEVE WILSON, SWINGS OPEN THE DOOR OF HIS OFFICE AND...
I WANT TO SEE ALL THE REGULAR REPORTERS IN MY OFFICE RIGHT AWAY! WE'VE GOT A HOT STORY ON THE FIRE!
OKAY, CHIEF!
AS THE GROUP FILES INTO THE NEWSMAN'S OFFICE...
GOSH, THEY'RE ALL GOING IN BUT ME! I'M JUST A CUB REPORTER--NO ONE PAYS MUCH ATTENTION TO ME AROUND HERE!
WHILE THE MINUTES TICK BY, YOUNG HAL CRANDALL WAITS--AND WATCHES THE CLOSED DOOR...
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE IN THERE THIS MINUTE LISTENING TO MR. WILSON--MUST BE A BIG STORY!
STEVE WILSON EDITOR
INSIDE THE CLOSED ROOM, MEANWHILE...
--AND THERE ARE TWO ESCAPED CONVICTS--BOTH DANGEROUS! IT'S DEFINITELY KNOWN THAT THEY MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN BIG TOWN! THEY COULDN'T HAVE STOLEN OUT OF TOWN--I'LL SHOW YOU WHY...
AS THIS MAP SHOWS, EVERY ROAD LEAVING BIG TOWN IS UNDER HEAVY GUARD! EVERY BUS AND TRAIN IS BEING CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED! THERE ARE SPECIAL POLICE AT THE AIRFIELDS!
THOSE MEN ARE STILL IN THIS CITY--SOMEWHERE! NOW GET THIS--NO MATTER WHAT ASSIGNMENTS YOU ARE SENT OUT ON, I WANT YOU TO HAVE YOUR EYES AND EARS PEELED FOR A CLUE TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE CONVICTS! HERE ARE THEIR PICTURES...
2


AFTER THE MEETING HAS ENDED..
THERE THEY COME
NOW! I'LL ASK ED COURTNEY TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON--HE'S ALWAYS BEEN NICE AND FRIENDLY!
BULLETIN BOARD


OBLIGINGLY, REPORTER COURTNEY LETS THE YOUNGER MAN IN ON THE NEWS...
--SO YOU SEE, HAL, THAT'S WHY STEVE ONLY WANTED US "OLD HANDS" ON THIS ASSIGNMENT! WITH DESPERATE MEN LIKE THESE ON THE LOOSE, IT COULD BE A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT!


LATER, AT HAL'S BOARDING HOUSE ROOM, AFTER HIS WORKDAY...
IF I CAME ACROSS THOSE CRIMINALS, I'D BET I'D FIND A WAY TO CAPTURE THEM--AND I'D WRITE A FRONT-PAGE STORY ABOUT IT TOO! MR. WILSON WOULD HAVE TO MAKE ME A REGULAR REPORTER AFTER THAT!

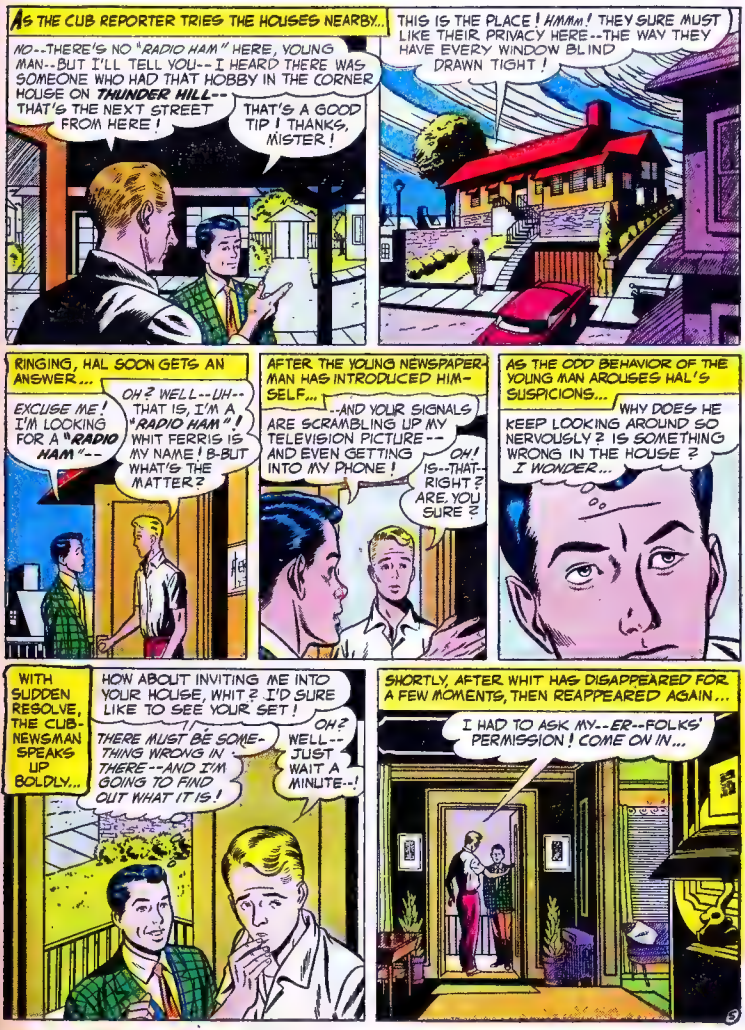

BUT I MIGHT AS WELL STOP DREAMING! I'LL NEVER CATCH ANY CROOKS--AND I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING! GUESS I'LL WATCH TELEVISION TONIGHT...
BIG TOWN

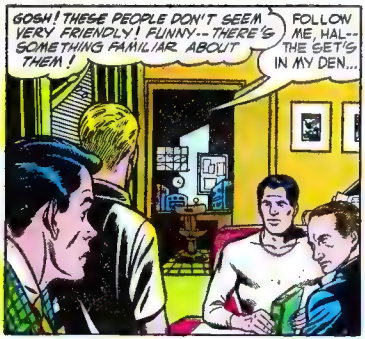

THEN, SUDDENLY, ON THE TV SET..
YOUR KING MUST DIE! HE CANNOT ESCAPE...
EH? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE PICTURE? AND THAT VOICE--THERE WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT IN THE STORY--

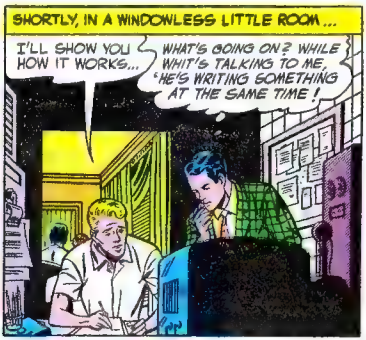
AS THE RECEPTION BECOMES WORSE, THE YOUNG NEWSMAN TURNS OFF THE SET...
MAYBE I OUGHT TO CALL THE TV STATION AND FIND OUT IF THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT TERRIBLE RECEPTION! IF NOT, IT MUST BE MY SET--
CLICK!

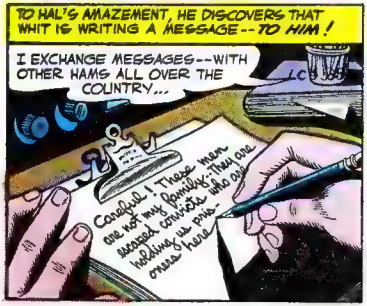
BUT WHEN HAL LIFTS THE PHONE TO CALL...
THAT SAME VOICE--NOW COMING OVER MY PHONE!

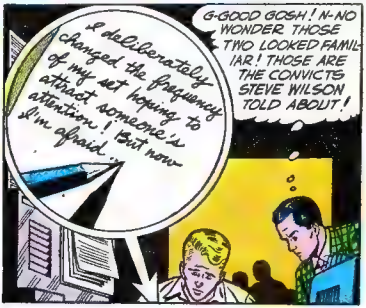
I'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF! THERE MUST BE SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THIS--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!
MY NEIGHBOR ON THE FLOOR BELOW IS A RADIO ENGINEER! I'LL TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED--MAYBE HE CAN EXPLAIN IT!
SHORTLY, IN THE NEIGHBOR'S FLAT...
SURE, THE ANSWER'S VERY SIMPLE, HAL! THERE'S A "RADIO HAM" IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHO IS BROADCASTING ON A FREQUENCY THAT YOUR TV SET AND YOUR PHONE ARE PICKING UP! THAT SORT OF THING IS NOT TOO UNUSUAL ...
PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED "HAM" BROADCASTS IN THEIR BRIDGEWORK--IN THEIR BEDSPRINGS--EVEN IN AN ELECTRIC RAZOR! IT'S A KIND OF A FREAK ELECTRONIC ACCIDENT! OF COURSE, YOU COULD NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES...
...BUT IF YOU DID YOU MIGHT GET THE "HAM" INTO TROUBLE! WHY DON'T YOU INQUIRE AROUND TO FIND OUT WHO IT MIGHT BE AND THEN JUST ASK HIM TO STOP?
GOOD IDEA, MR. GRANT! I'LL DO WHAT YOU SUGGEST!
SHORTLY, AS DARKNESS FALLS OVER BIG TOWN...
I'LL SCOUT AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD--MAYBE I CAN FIND THAT "RADIO HAM" BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE!


AS THE CUB REPORTER TRIES THE HOUSES NEARBY...
NO--THERE'S NO "RADIO HAM" HERE, YOUNG MAN--BUT I'LL TELL YOU--I HEARD THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD THAT HOBBY IN THE CORNER HOUSE ON THUNDER HILL--THAT'S THE NEXT STREET FROM HERE!
THAT'S A GOOD TIP! THANKS, MISTER!
THIS IS THE PLACE! HMMM! THEY SURE MUST LIKE THEIR PRIVACY HERE--THE WAY THEY HAVE EVERY WINDOW BLIND DRAWN TIGHT!
RINGING, HAL SOON GETS AN ANSWER...
EXCUSE ME! I'M LOOKING FOR A "RADIO HAM"--
OH? WELL--UH--THAT IS, I'M A "RADIO HAM"! WHIT FERRIS IS MY NAME! B-BUT WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AFTER THE YOUNG NEWSPAPERMAN HAS INTRODUCED HIMSELF...
--AND YOUR SIGNALS ARE SCRAMBLING UP MY TELEVISION PICTURE--AND EVEN GETTING INTO MY PHONE!
OH! IS--THAT--RIGHT? ARE YOU SURE?
AS THE ODD BEHAVIOR OF THE YOUNG MAN AROUSES HAL'S SUSPICIONS...
WHY DOES HE KEEP LOOKING AROUND SO NERVOUSLY? IS SOMETHING WRONG IN THE HOUSE? I WONDER...
WITH SUDDEN RESOLVE, THE CUB-NEWSMAN SPEAKS UP BOLDLY...
HOW ABOUT INVITING ME INTO YOUR HOUSE, WHIT? I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE YOUR SET!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG IN THERE--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!
OH? WELL--JUST WAIT A MINUTE--!
SHORTLY, AFTER WHIT HAS DISAPPEARED FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN REAPPEARED AGAIN...
I HAD TO ASK MY--ER--FOLKS' PERMISSION! COME ON IN...


GOSH! THESE PEOPLE DON'T SEEM VERY FRIENDLY! FUNNY--THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THEM!
FOLLOW ME, HAL--THE SET'S IN MY DEN...


SHORTLY, IN A WINDOWLESS LITTLE ROOM...
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT WORKS...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHILE WHIT'S TALKING TO ME, HE'S WRITING SOMETHING AT THE SAME TIME!

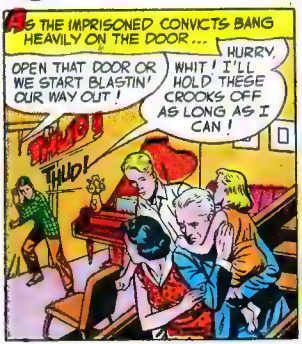

TO HAL'S AMAZEMENT, HE DISCOVERS THAT WHIT IS WRITING A MESSAGE--TO HIM!
I EXCHANGE MESSAGES--WITH OTHER HAMS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY...
Careful! These men are armed! Family--they are not my family. They are escaped convicts who are holding us prisoners here!

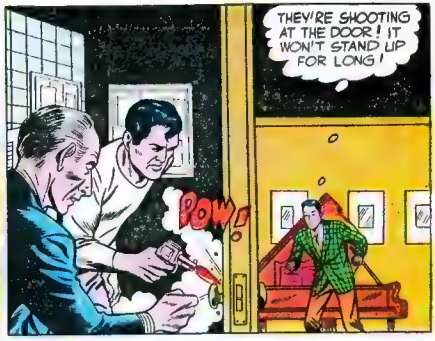

I deliberately changed the frequency of my set hoping to attract someone's attention! But now I'm afraid...
G-GOOD GOSH! N-NO WONDER THOSE TWO LOOKED FAMILIAR! THOSE ARE THE CONVICTS STEVE WILSON TOLD ABOUT!

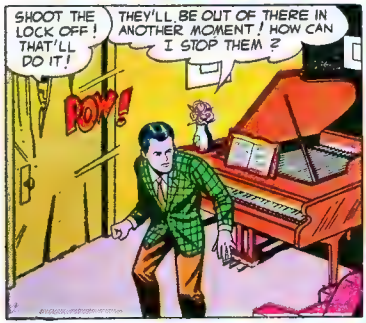
I PLAY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS WITH ANOTHER FELLOW IN THE NEXT TOWN! THAT MUST BE WHAT YOU HEARD!
Oh you get the police, my family--my parents and sister--may get hurt in the gun battle! These men are armed! What should I do?

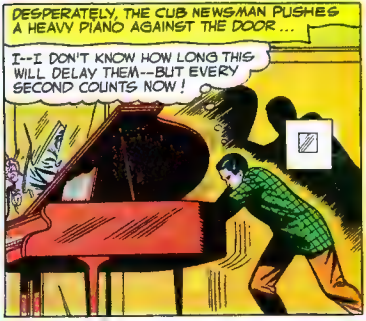
WHIT WANTS ME TO HELP HIM AND HIS FAMILY OUT OF THIS SPOT! BUT HOW--WAIT, I HAVE AN IDEA! IT'S RISKY--BUT IT MIGHT WORK...
HURRY UP, YOU TWO! IT'S GETTING LATE!

WITH TIME PRESSING ON HIM, THE CUB REPORTER THINKS SWIFTLY...
IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN, I'VE GOT TO GET THE TWO CONVICTS INTO THIS LITTLE ROOM! WITH WHIT'S COOPERATION, I MAY BE ABLE TO SWING IT! GOT TO GET HOLD OF HIS PENCIL!
AS WHIT CARRIES ON HIS APPARENT CONVERSATION WITH HAL...
THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT MY SET!
and don't be surprised at what happens--just watch me and follow my lead!
SNEAKING SOME MATCHES OUT OF HIS POCKET, HAL STANDS WITH HIS BACK TO A PAPER-FILLED WASTE BASKET..
IT'S A GOOD THING I ALWAYS KEEP MATCHES ON ME IN CASE ONE OF THE REGULAR REPORTERS AT THE OFFICE WANTS A LIGHT!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW, WHIT!
BUT A MOMENT AFTERWARD...
HELP! FIRE!
HUH?
YOUR WASTE BASKET'S SMOKING!
INSTANTLY, THE TWO MEN RUSH IN FROM THE LIVINGROOM...
THE FIRE'S SPREADING FAST!
OUTA THE WAY! WE GOTTA KILL THAT BLAZE!
A FIRE COULD BRING PEOPLE HERE AND RUIN EVERYTHING FOR US!
AS THE DUO RUSHES PAST THEM, THE YOUTHS RETREAT TOWARDS THE DOOR...
HERE IT IS--IN THIS CORNER!
NOW'S MY CHANCE! THEY HAVE THEIR BACKS TO US!
THE NEXT INSTANT...
THEY'RE LOCKED IN! RUN, WHIT--GET YOUR FAMILY OUT OF THE HOUSE AND CALL THE POLICE!
OKAY!
SLAM!
click!


AS THE IMPRISONED CONVICTS BANG HEAVILY ON THE DOOR...
OPEN THAT DOOR OR WE START BLASTIN' OUR WAY OUT!
WHIT! I'LL HOLD THESE CROOKS OFF AS LONG AS I CAN!
HURRY,
BANG!
THUD!


THEY'RE SHOOTING AT THE DOOR! IT WON'T STAND UP FOR LONG!
POW!


SHOOT THE LOCK OFF! THAT'LL DO IT!
THEY'LL BE OUT OF THERE IN ANOTHER MOMENT! HOW CAN I STOP THEM?
POW!


DESPERATELY, THE CUB NEWSMAN PUSHES A HEAVY PIANO AGAINST THE DOOR...
I--I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS WILL DELAY THEM--BUT EVERY SECOND COUNTS NOW!

ANOTHER MINUTE PASSES BY...
PUSH! BOTH OF US TOGETHER!
HERE THEY COME!

THEN...
THEY'RE FREE! I'VE GOT TO TRY ANOTHER WAY TO STOP THEM!
LET'S GET OUTA HERE!

AS THE PAIR RUSHES FOR THE DOOR...
THAT WISE GUY-- PRETENDING THERE WAS A REAL FIRE...
GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT..
AS THE CONVICTS PASS NEAR HAL, HIDDEN BEHIND HEAVY DRAPES...
THE CURTAINS ARE FALLIN'!
QUICKLY, HAL TRIES TO FOLLOW UP HIS ADVANTAGE ...
IF I CAN WRAP THIS DRAPE AROUND THEM-- TIE THEM UP IN IT--
GET THIS THING OFF US!
DESPERATELY, THE CONFUSED CONVICTS LASH OUT...
IT MUST BE THAT KID AGAIN! KEEP PUNCHIN' AWAY AT HIM!
I GOT A HOLD OF AN END OF THIS THING--!
SUDDENLY, AS ONE OF THE CROOKS HEAVES UPWARD, HAL IS SENT FLYING...
THAT'S THE LAST TRICK YOU'LL EVER PULL, KID!

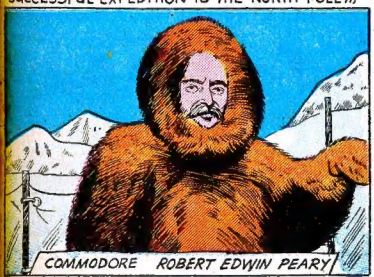
BUT BEFORE THE GUNMAN CAN SHOOT...
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
THE POLICE! THEY CAUGHT UP TO US!
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER THE ESCAPED CONVICTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AGAIN...
--AND AS FAR AS WE CAN MAKE OUT, YOUNG MAN, THOSE GUNMEN YOU HELPED CAPTURE WERE HIDING OUT ALL DAY IN THE FERRIS HOME, WAITING FOR DARK TO MAKE THEIR GETAWAY!
I SEE--MAY I PHONE MY PAPER, LT. GREGGORY?
THEN, AS HAL CALLS HIS BOSS...
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. WILSON! I HELPED CAPTURE THE ESCAPED CONVICTS--AND I'VE GOT AN EXCLUSIVE STORY ON IT!
MEET ME DOWN AT THE OFFICE RIGHT AWAY!
SOON AFTER, IN THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS CITY ROOM...
OKAL, HAL, NOW SIT DOWN AND WRITE THAT STORY!
GOSH, MR. WILSON--I DON'T EVEN HAVE A TYPEWRITER OF MY OWN OR A PLACE TO WORK...
HAL, FROM NOW ON THIS IS YOUR TYPEWRITER--AND THIS IS YOUR DESK! AND REMEMBER--GET ALL YOUR FACTS IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH!
Y-YES, SIR!
GOLLY! THIS MEANS I AM A REAL REPORTER NOW!
AS THE EX-CLUB GETS TO WORK...
HMMM! NOT BAD, EH, LORELEI?
I THINK IT'S TERRIFIC, STEVE! HAL COURTNEY'S A BORN NEWSMAN!
The End

ODD NEWS ITEMS!

WHEN ARTHUR BRISBANE, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK *JOURNAL*, RECEIVED THREE LETTERS ASKING FOR ADVICE ON PERSONAL PROBLEMS, HE TURNED THEM OVER TO MARIE MANNING, EDITOR OF THE WOMAN'S PAGE. THE ANSWERS WERE PRINTED UNDER THE PSEUDONYM OF *BEATRICE FAIRFAX*,* AND MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE POPULAR "ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN" COLUMN...

*EDITOR'S NOTE: *BEATRICE* WAS DERIVED FROM THE NAME OF DANTE'S LOVE, AND *FAIRFAX* FROM MISS MANNING'S VIRGINIA HOME.

IN RETURN FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO HIS POLAR EXPEDITION STORIES, THE WASHINGTON *STAR* HELPED FINANCE WALTER WELLMAN'S TWO UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS (1906 AND 1908) TO REACH THE NORTH POLE. A YEAR LATER, IN 1909, THE NEW YORK *TIMES* HAD BETTER LUCK FINANCING COMMODORE PEARY'S SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH POLE...



COMMODORE ROBERT EDWIN PEARY

THE FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN AMERICA, THE PHILADELPHIA *ZEITUNG* (1732), WAS PUBLISHED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN...

BENJAMIN FRANKIN DELIVERING PAPER TO HIS PHILADELPHIA PRINTING SHOP IN 1732 (ADAPTED from a PAINTING BY EDWARD PENFIELD).

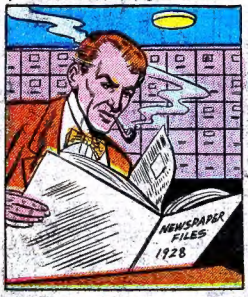
ADVERTISEMENT

FEARLESS FOSDICK® by Al Capp

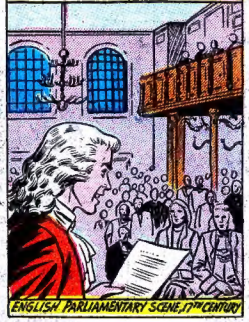
CHUCKLE!!—WE'VE GOT FOSDICK LOCKED IN THE TIME CAPSULE!!
HE CAN'T GET OUT FOR A MILLION YEARS!!
ONE MILLION YEARS LATER
EGAD!! THINGS HAVE CHANGED!!
ONLY IN A FEW MINOR RESPECTS. BUT WE STILL USE THE GREATEST INHERITANCE OF YOUR ANCIENT CULTURE—
NAMELY WILDROOT CREAM-OIL!!—NOTHING HAS EVER SURPASSED IT!!—KEEPS HAIR NEAT AND NATURAL!
WILDROOT CREAM-OIL
WILDROOT CREAM-OIL
YES!!—ALSO REMOVES DANDRUFF!! —CONTAINS NATURE'S SOOTHING LANOLIN!!
BUT THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL!!
GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!!
MY NAME IS EILRAHC!!

NEWSPAPER FLASHES!

THE REFERENCE FILE KEPT BY NEWSPAPERS--KNOWN AS THE *MORGUE*--WAS INITIATED IN 1814 BY HEZEKIAH NILES WHO COLLECTED MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS IN HIS *WEEKLY REGISTER*, SUBTITLED, "A BOOK OF REFERENCE, A FUND OF READING ALWAYS AT HAND, A WORK OF PROBABLE VALUE..."



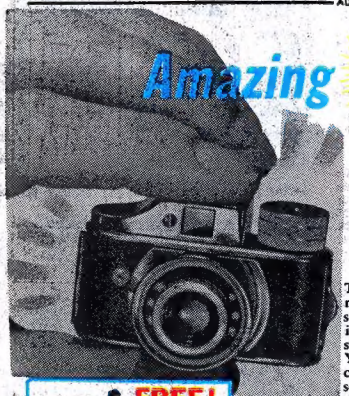
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PUBLISHING OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES WAS RESTRICTED IN 18TH CENTURY ENGLAND, NEWSPAPERS MANAGED TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAW BY REPORTING THE DEBATES AS TAKING PLACE IN THE MYTHICAL KINGDOM OF LILLIPUT...



WHEN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY WAS FIRST INTRODUCED, OVERSEAS NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS REFUSED TO USE THIS METHOD of TRANSMITTING COLUMNS TO THEIR HOME OFFICES BECAUSE THE MESSAGES COULD BE PICKED UP BY RIVAL NEWSPAPERS AND PRINTED AT THE SAME TIME...

THIS DEFECT HAS SINCE BEEN ELIMINATED BY SENDING MESSAGES IN CODE, OR "SCRAMBLING" MESSAGES BY AUTOMATIC MECHANICAL DEVICES AT THE TRANSMITTER AND HAVING THEM "UNSCRAMBLED" at the AUTHORIZED RECEIVING STATION...

ADVERTISEMENT



Amazing **GOLD-PLATED MINIATURE SPY CAMERA**

Measures only 2 inches wide and 1¼ inches tall.....only **$2.98**

This precision built camera is amazingly small. But it's not a toy or a gadget. Far from it! Sturdy, all-metal construction, professional view-finder, fast shutter, BOTH instant and time exposure setting. Yes, it takes clear, sharp pictures just like bigger, more expensive cameras. Yet, it's so small, so compact, so precision-made, you can hide it in the palm of your hand. Take pictures in secret. Surprise friends with hilarious candid photos of themselves. Beautifully, sturdily made to last a lifetime—and ALL EXPOSED METAL PARTS ARE GENUINE GOLD PLATED! A beauty to see, to handle and to take pictures with. A terrific value too.

FREE! Order right away and receive FREE—genuine leather carrying case with strap AND 2 rolls of fresh film—enough for 20 pictures. Additional film available at stores or from us for 25c per roll of 10 exposures.

Hurry! Supply Is Strictly Limited!

Pay only $2.98 complete for this remarkable camera. Rush check or money-order. No COD please. Shipped postpaid and guaranteed. This camera is imported and supplies are limited—so order for yourself, for friends, for gifts right away!

MODERN MERCHANDISE CO., Dept. 111, 169 W. Madison St., Chicago 2, Ill.

FREE

ON THIS AMAZING OFFER

This Valuable Unusual Collection of FAMOUS PEOPLE ON STAMPS

LENIN—STALIN HITLER

Gen. MacArthur

POPE PIUS

Queen Elizabeth II George VI and Elizabeth

FDR and Churchill

Yes! Yours FREE—this entire collection of all-different Famous People Stamps—exciting, colorful issues from hard-to-get countries like Albania, Southern Rhodesia, South Moluccas, Monaco, Czechoslovakia, Union of South Africa! If you bought these Famous People Stamps and Sets separately you would have to pay at least $1.00 for them—yet they're all yours FREE if you send for one of our specially imported Bargain Stamp Packets today!

DAYS OF FUN! LOW, LOW COST!

You're guaranteed to enjoy hours and days of pleasure with a famous Zenith Bargain Stamp Packet. Each packet contains over 300 all-different stamps—from every corner of the globe! Each packet is chockful of commemoratives, pictorials, special issues, triangles, giant-sized stamps! Each packet has a guaranteed Catalog Value of $6.25 or more—yet each packet costs only 25¢! Think of it! Over 300 all-different stamps for only 25¢! You'll fill hundreds of blank spaces in your album at the amazing bargain rate of 13 stamps for 1¢. If you're a beginner—here's a fine start on the most popular hobby in America—at a tiny cost!

300,000 COLLECTORS ARE DELIGHTED

To get your giant imported Bargain Packet of more than 300 stamps, just mail the coupon, together with 25¢. We'll include—at no extra cost—the Famous People Stamp Collection described above! We're making this special offer to introduce our famous Bargain Approvals . . . an attractive selection accompanies your order. But hurry! The number of Famous People Stamp Collections we can give away is limited—so mail coupon NOW. If coupon has been clipped, send your name and address with 25¢ to:

ZENITH CO., Dept. NG-3 81 Willoughby St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

FREE! MIDGET ENCYCLOPEDIA OF STAMPS

Our very own Midget Encyclopedia of Stamps (tells you everything you need to know to enjoy this wonderful hobby)—*plus* The Stamp Dictionary (definitions of every term used by collectors)—*plus* The Stamp Identifier (shows you how to identify thousands of foreign stamps)—ALL included, FREE with Bargain Packet!

ZENITH CO. 81 Willoughby St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

MAIL COUPON NOW

ZENITH CO., Dept. NG-3
81 Willoughby St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

I enclose 25¢. Send me one of your giant Bargain Packets containing over 300 all-different stamps. Include, FREE—the Famous People Stamp Collection *plus* "Midget Encyclopedia of Stamp Collecting." Also Bargain Approvals for free examination.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

Tootsie Roll POPS
Hard fruit flavored outside in orange, grape, pineapple, cherry and chocolate . . inside is a Tootsie Roll Center. 2c

AMERICA'S FAVORITE CANDY

Only 5c each

These delicious TOOTSIE ROLL Candies are only 1c each.